

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 139300  
ORIGIN EA-12

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APPROVED BY EA/K - MR. RICH  
EA/K - AMBASSADOR SNEIDER  
-----042580 020038Z /63

O 012244Z JUN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 139300

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, PROP, KS, US, MARR

SUBJECT: FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS - JUNE 1

SUMMARY: LATEST ROUND OF SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS FOLLOWED PREVIOUS PATTERN OF AN ACADEMICIAN (SHINN RINN-SUP, AMERICAN UNIVERSITY) PRESENTING HISTORICAL BACKGROUND FOLLOWING THE CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT. THE SECOND WITNESS, FORMER PRESIDENTIAL AIDE JOHN NIDECKER, CHRONICLED REPORTED BRIBERY ATTEMPT BY PARK CHONG-KYU IN SEOUL, AND A LATER OFFER OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMAN ROW CHIN-HWAN IN WASHINGTON. SECOND HALF OF SESSION WAS DEVOTED TO QUESTIONING OF AMBASSADOR SNEIDER AS TO HIS PERCEPTION OF THE CONDITIONS IN KOREA AT THE TIME OF THE OCTOBER REVITALIZATION PROGRAM AND TO SPECIFIC STATE DEPARTMENT KNOWLEDGE AND ACTIONS WITH REGARD TO ILLEGAL OR IMPROPER KOREAN ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES.  
END SUMMARY

1. OPENING STATEMENT BY SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FRASER  
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PAGE 02 STATE 139300

FOCUSED ON ALLEGATIONS OF ROKG ATTEMPTS TO EXPAND INFLUENCE IN THE U.S. DURING THE PERIOD 1973 THROUGH 1976. HE ALSO SUMMARIZED TESTIMONY GIVEN BY VARIOUS U.S. AND KOREAN WITNESSES DURING EARLIER HEARINGS IN 1976 AND 1977. SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS FRASER, DERWINSKI AND GOODLING

ATTENDED, AND CAPUTO ATTENDED FOR A SHORT TIME AS GUEST

OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE.

2. THE INITIAL WITNESS WAS SHINN RINN-SUP, SENIOR RESEARCH SCIENTIST (POLITICAL) AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, WHO PRESENTED A PAPER PURPOSING TO QUOTE ... SHED SOME LIGHT ON THE SOUTH KOREAN DOMESTIC AND EXTERNAL SITUATIONS IN 1973 AND 1974 AND TO PLACE U.S.-KOREAN RELATIONS OF THE PERIOD IN PERSPECTIVE. UNQUOTE TOWARD THIS END, SHINN DISCUSSED DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS LEADING UP TO THE OCTOBER REVITALIZATION REFORMS OF OCTOBER 1972 WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON WHAT THE ROKG PERCEIVED AS THE EROSION OF THE QUOTE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP UNQUOTE WITH THE U.S. HE THEN TOUCHED ON THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY OF 1973, QUOTE UNIFICATION DIPLOMACY UNQUOTE, KIM DAE JUNG AND THE RIFT WITH JAPAN, THE EMERGENCY MEASURES OF EARLY 1974, AND THE ROKG DECISION TO GREATLY EXPAND LOBBYING EFFORTS IN THE U.S. HIS CENTRAL THESIS IN THIS REGARD WAS THAT THE EXPANDED LOBBYING CAMPAIGN WAS A LOGICAL REACTION BY THE ROKG GIVEN THE QUOTE SEIGE MENTALITY UNQUOTE ENGENDERED PARTICULARLY BY THE U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM INDOCHINA AND INCREASING U.S. DISSATISFACTION WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN KOREA. SHINN CLOSED WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ROK IS INEXTRICABLY INTERTWINED WITH THE CONFRONTATION WITH DPRK AND THAT CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS WILL NOT BE FORTHCOMING UNTIL A UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 139300

MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE PEACE SETTLEMENT IS REACHED.

3. JOHN NIDECKER, SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR CONGRESSIONAL LIAISON TO PRESIDENT NIXON FROM 1969 TO 1974, THEN ANSWERED SUBCOMMITTEE QUESTIONS REGARDING THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING HIS CONTACTS WITH PARK CHONG-KYU AND ROW CHIN-HWAN WHICH LED TO PARK'S ATTEMPTED GIFT OF US\$10,000 DURING NIDECKER'S TRIP TO KOREA AND ROW'S LATER OFFERS OF CAMPAIGN FUNDS FOR U.S. OFFICIALS AND HIS PROPOSAL TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL IN WASHINGTON IN NIDECKER'S NAME. ALTHOUGH NIDECKER PRESENTED MORE BACKGROUND TO THESE INCIDENTS THAN WE HAD PREVIOUSLY AND MENTIONED NUMEROUS NON-FISCAL GIFTS (TURNED OVER TO STATE FOR DISPOSAL) TO HIMSELF AND OTHER WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS, HE MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE REVELATIONS BEYOND THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE VARIOUS LETTERS AND MEMCONS ALREADY AVAILABLE TO BOTH THE DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY.

4. THE SUBCOMMITTEE BEGAN A SINGLE TWO-HOUR SESSION AT NOON BY ASKING AMBASSADOR SNEIDER TO OUTLINE U.S.

PRIORITIES WITH REGARD TO KOREA DURING THE 1972-1976 PERIOD. HE CITED AS PRIMARY, THE DETERRENCE OF RENEWED HOSTILITIES WITH THE NORTH, ALONG WITH CREATING CONDITIONS FOR INCREASED ECONOMIC AND MILITARY SELF-RELIANCE BY THE ROK IN LINE WITH THE NIXON DOCTRINE. HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS BECAME INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT AFTER THE YUSHIN CONSTITUTION, AND TROOP WITHDRAWAL ISSUES LATER ACHIEVED SIGNIFICANCE. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON POSSIBLE MOTIVATIONS FOR THE ROKG DECLARATION OF MARTIAL LAW, THE YUSHIN CONSTITUTION, AND PROMULGATION OF THE EMERGENCY MEASURES, THE AMBASSADOR CITED KOREA'S VIEWS OF: A) A CHANGING WORLD ENVIRONMENT (DETENTE, EASING OF THE COLD WAR, VIETNAM, AND U.S./CHINA RAPPROCHMENT); B) THE CHANGING U.S.-ROK RELATIONSHIP AND DOUBTS CONCERNING UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 139300

THE U.S. COMMITMENT; AND C) PURELY DOMESTIC FACTORS. HE NOTED THAT THE USG HAD PUBLICLY DISASSOCIATED OURSELVES FROM THESE RESTRICTIVE POLITICAL CHANGES AND PRIVATELY HAD EXPRESSED STRONG CONCERN.

5. USING ABOVE TESTIMONY AS BACKGROUND TO SET THE MILIEU FOR KOREAN LOBBYING ACTIVITIES IN THE U.S., REMAINDER OF QUESTIONING CENTERED ON WHAT AMBASSADOR SNEIDER KNEW OF THESE DURING HIS TENURE AS DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND AMBASSADOR, AND WHAT ACTIONS THE DEPARTMENT TOOK IN RESPONSE TO THE INFORMATION IT HAD RECEIVED. A NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS RELATING TO TONGSUN PARK, ROW CHIN HWAN, AND ALLEGED KICA HARASSMENT OF KOREANS IN THE UNITED STATES WHICH HAD BEEN DECLASSIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT WERE ENTERED INTO THE RECORD. THE AMBASSADOR DECLINED TO DISCUSS IN OPEN SESSION CURRENT POSSIBILITIES FOR ANY ACCOMMODATION ON TESTIMONY BY FORMER AMBASSADOR KIM DONG-JO.

6. AT THE CLOSE, THE AMBASSADOR SUMMARIZED THE IMPORTANCE TO BOTH KOREA AND THE USG THAT OUR COOPERATION AND ALLIANCE CONTINUE AND THAT WAR EFFECTIVELY BE DETERRED IN NORTHEAST ASIA. CHAIRMAN FRASER ACKNOWLEDGED THIS IMPORTANCE BUT NOTED THAT FULL U.S. COOPERATION WAS DIFFICULT AS LONG AS THE GOVERNMENT IN SEOUL CONTINUES TO IMPRISON OPPOSITION CANDIDATE KIM TAE-CHUNG AND THE LIKES OF POET KIM CHI-HA.

7. DOCUMENTS DECLASSIFIED FOR THE HEARINGS WERE ENTERED INTO THE RECORD. THE AMBASSADOR WILL BRING COPIES WHEN HE RETURNS TO POST. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**TAGS:** PINR, PROP, MARR, PGOV, KS, US  
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**Review Markings:**  
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